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SEP 11 2006

## REMARKS

1. In the above-captioned Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 12, 15-17, 19, and 20. Claims 3 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 3 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-4, 7, and 8, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Rueger (U.S. Patent No. 6,712,047). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Rueger. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Rueger in view of Bunch, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,000,043). These rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

2. Claims 3 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and additionally under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim 18 is cancelled above, and claim 13 is amended to state that the chamber "simulates" a combustion chamber, as Examiner also points out. Claim 13 as amended is supported, enabled, and described by the specification as originally filed, and thus complies with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

3. Claims 1-4, 7, and 8, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Rueger.

Examiner states in the Final Office Action that the "orifice" described in the Rueger reference is the passage which contains element (8) and that passage, which itself was interpreted as being an orifice, does extend into, and thus is disposed in, the nozzle as claimed [page 8, under "Response to Arguments" section].

Applicant respectfully submits that the passage which contains element (8) in Rueger is not and cannot be interpreted as being an orifice. An orifice, by definition, is an opening, such as a vent, mouth, or hole, through which something may pass.

Rueger's passage contains an orifice (element (8)), so it cannot itself be an orifice. The orifice of Rueger's passage, element (8), fluidly connects two sides of the passage that contains it, and does not fluidly communicate directly with the fluid cavity of a nozzle, rather, it communicates with the fluid cavity of the nozzle through a portion of the passage that contains it. Hence, Rueger does not teach *an orifice disposed in the nozzle and a pressure sensor adjacent to the orifice* as stated in claim 1.

Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, along with claims 2-4, 7, and 8 that depend therefrom are allowable over Rueger and may be passed to allowance.

Furthermore, claims 2-4, 7, 8, 16, and 18, are dependent upon an independent claim that is shown to be allowable. For all these reasons, the dependent claims are themselves allowable.

4. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Rueger. Claim 9 depends from claim 1 which has been shown to be allowable over the Rueger reference and is, thus, itself allowable.

5. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Rueger in view of Bunch, Jr. et al. Even if one were to combine the pressure control valve or the flow metering unit taught by Bunch with the teachings of Rueger, the resulting combination would fail to yield the invention as claimed because Rueger does not teach the unique subject matter of independent claim 1 as shown above.

Moreover, claims 5 and 6 are dependent upon an independent claim that is shown to be allowable. For all these reasons, these dependent claims are themselves allowable.

6. This amendment/response is necessary because it places the Application in condition for allowance, and was not previously entered because the Examiner first brought the grounds of rejection in the Final Office Action.

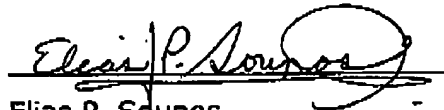
7. The examiner points out that the rejection of claims 3 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, was set forth in the previous office action (Jan. 12, 2006) but was not addressed by the Applicant. Applicant's previous response was a bona fide attempt to advance the application proceeding to a final action, and the response to said rejection was omitted in error. A fully responsive traversal of the rejection of claims 3 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is set forth herein.

8. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication may advance the prosecution of the present application. Notice of allowance of claims 1-9, and 13 is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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